

R E M A R K S

The Applicants submit the following amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.312. In this instance, the "amendment" consists of "an amendment to the specification" as particularized in MPEP § 714.16(A).

Applicants have amended the specification to reference the inclusion of color Figures in selected formal drawings that were originally filed as black and white images in the application as filed. This reference to color drawings (e.g. Figs. 17 and 18) is offered pursuant to 37 CFR §1.84(b)(2) as annotated by MPEP 608.02. Applicants note the presentation of color, in the above referenced drawings (e.g. photographs), highlight features already described in the specification of the application as filed (e.g. the shape and dimensions of fibers described in selected embodiments of the present invention). Therefore, this amendment introduces no new matter into the allowed application.

So that the Applicants may make these color photographs of record, attached hereto is: i) "Petition To Accept Color Drawings" (pursuant to 37 CFR §1.84), ii) the fee set out in 37 CFR §1.17(h), iii) three (3) sets of color photographs, and iv) a black and white photocopy that accurately depicts, to the extent possible, the subject matter shown in the color photographs. Applicants have also amended the specification, in the instant Post Allowance Amendment, to introduce the requisite paragraph following the caption, "Description Of The Drawings."

Applicants assert the aforementioned amendment to the specification does not compromise the patentability of the allowed claims nor should it provoke additional search or examination by the Examiner.

A clean version of the rewritten or added paragraphs, in the specification, with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii) is included beginning on page three of this communication. A marked-up version of the rewritten paragraphs of the specification, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), is attached as Appendix I.

Application Serial: 09/490,291

APPENDIX I
VERSION OF SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(In The Instant Post Allowance Amendment)

1. The following paragraph was inserted after the caption, "Description Of The Drawings" which appears on page 8, line 11:

--The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawings will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.--